

## CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition, said composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula  $R\text{-COOH}$ , or a salt or an ester or amide of such compound, where R designates a saturated or unsaturated alkyl chain of 10–24  
5 carbon atoms, one or more of which may be replaced by heteroatoms, where one or more of said carbon or heteroatom chain members optionally forms part of a ring, and where said chain is optionally substituted by a hydrocarbyl radical, heterocyclyl radical, lower alkoxy, hydroxyl-substituted lower alkyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, halogen, phenyl or (hydroxy-, lower alkyl-, lower alkoxy-, lower alkenyl- or lower alkynyl)-substituted phenyl,  
10  $C_3\text{--}C_7$  cycloalkyl or (hydroxy-, lower alkyl-, lower alkoxy-, lower alkenyl- or lower alkynyl)-substituted  $C_3\text{--}C_7$  cycloalkyl wherein said compound is capable of being endogenously converted to its respective coenzyme A thioester,  $RCOSCoA$ .
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein R is selected from the group  
15 consisting of  $\omega$ -carboxyl,  $\omega$ -hydroxyl boron, and  $\omega$ -hydroxyl chains.
3. A composition according to claim 1, where  $RCOOH$  is either clofibric acid or fibric acid, or a salt, ester, amide, or derivative thereof.
- 20 4. A composition according to claim 1, where  $RCOOH$  is a nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug (NSAID).

5. A composition according to claim 1, where RCOOH is a saturated or unsaturated long chain fatty acid.

5 6. A composition according to claim 5, where the fatty acid is chosen from:

Stearic(18:0) acid  
Oleic(18:1) acid  
Linolenic(18:2) acid  
Linolenic(18:3) acid  
10 Eicosapentaenic(20:5) acid  
Docosa-hexaenic(22:6) acid

7. A composition according to claim 1, wherein RCOOH is selected from the group consisting of:

15 1,16 Hexadecanedioic acid  
1,18 Octadecanedioic acid  
2,2,15,15-tetramethyl-hexadecane-1,16-dioic acid  
2,2,17,17-tetramethyl-octadecane-1,18-dioic acid  
3,3,14,14-tetramethyl-hexadecane-1,16-dioic acid  
20 3,3,16,16-tetramethyl-octadecane-1,18-dioic acid  
4,4,13,13-tetramethyl-hexadecane-1,16-dioic acid and  
4,4,15,15-tetramethyl-octadecane-1,18-dioic acid

8. A composition according to claim 1, wherein RCOOH is selected from the group  
25 consisting of:

16-B(OH)2-hexadecanoic acid  
18- B(OH)2-octadecanoic acid  
16- B(OH)2-2,2-dimethyl-hexadecanoic acid

18- B(OH)2-2,2-dimethyl-octadecanoic acid  
16- B(OH)2-3,3-dimethyl-hexadecanoic acid  
18- B(OH)2-3,3-dimethyl-octadecanoic acid  
16- B(OH)2-4,4-dimethyl-hexadecanoic acid  
5 18- B(OH)2-4,4-dimethyl-octadecanoic acid

9. A composition according to claim 1, wherein RCOOH is selected from the group consisting of:

10 16-hydroxy-hexadecanoic acid  
18-hydroxy-octadecanoic acid  
16-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-hexadecanoic acid  
18-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-octadecanoic acid  
16-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-hexadecanoic acid  
18-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-octadecanoic acid  
15 16-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-hexadecanoic acid  
18-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-octadecanoic acid

10. A method of treating an HNF-4 mediated disease state which method comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which  
20 inhibits HNF-4 controlled transcription.

11. A method of claim 10 wherein said compound comprises an amphipathic carboxylate capable of being converted to its respective CoA thioester.

25 12. A method of claim 11 wherein said amphipathic carboxylate is a xenobiotic amphipathic carboxylate.

13. A method of claim 10 wherein said compound shifts the HNF-4 dimer-oligomer equilibrium to favor an oligomer.
- 5 14. A method of claim 10 wherein said compound decreases the binding affinity of the HNF-4 dimer for a target gene.
15. A method of claim 11 wherein said amphipathic carboxylate is a C18:3 fatty acid.
- 10 16. A method of claim 11 wherein said amphipathic carboxylate is a C20:5 fatty acid.
17. A method of claim 10 for the treatment of Syndrome X.
- 15 18. A method of claim 10 for the treatment of coronary or peripheral atherosclerosis.
19. A method of claim 10 for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis or inflammatory bowel diseases.
- 20 20. A method of claim 10 for the treatment of breast cancer, colon cancer or prostate cancer.

21. A method of modulating HNF-4 transcriptional activity in vivo comprising exposing the HNF-4 or a nucleic acid encoding HNF-4 to an effective amount of an amphipathic carboxylate, an antisense molecule, a ribozyme, or an antibody for HNF-4 or its gene.
- 5 22. A method of claim 21 wherein said amphipathic carboxylate is a fatty acid capable of being converted to its respective CoA thioester.
23. A method of claim 21 wherein said modulation is inhibition of HNF-4 activity.
24. A method of claim 21 wherein said modulation is activation of HNF-4 activity.
- 10 25. A method of claim 21 wherein said amphipathic carboxylate is a C18:3 fatty acid.
26. A method of claim 21 wherein said amphipathic carboxylate is a C20:5 fatty acid.
- 15 27. A method of claim 21 wherein the modulation is via antibody interaction.
28. A method of claim 10 wherein said compound is an antisense molecule, a ribozyme, or an antibody to HNF-4.